

# BOROUGH OF BECCLES



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1963

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MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
BLYBURGATE,  
BECCLES,  
SUFFOLK.



B O R O U G H   O F   B E C C L E S

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1963

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	H.E. NUTTEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	E.H. CRANMER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
MEAT INSPECTORS (part-time)	J.C. TAYLOR, M.R.C.V.S.
	P.F. ROE, M.R.C.V.S.(to 31.8.63)
	P.A. WEETMAN, M.R.C.V.S.(from 1.9.63)

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MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
BLYBURGATE,  
BECCLES,  
SUFFOLK.

JUNE, 1964.

Tel. No. Beccles 3113.



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B O R O U G H   O F   B E C C L E S

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1963

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Beccles Borough Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1963.

The estimated mid-1963 population shows a slight rise compared with the previous year. The number of deaths is the highest number recorded for many years and the Adjusted Death Rate is higher than the average for England and Wales.

Very few notifiable diseases were notified during the year.

Meals on Wheels

This service was started by the Women's Voluntary Service on the 19th March, 1963. To the year ending 31st March, 1964, they have prepared, cooked and distributed nearly 3,200 meals, twice weekly, to 52 elderly people in the Borough, under the supervision of Miss Pamela Hardy, the Centre Organiser. This is a first class service to the town which is welcomed by the senior citizens, many of whom have written to the W.V.S. to show their appreciation for the time and effort these ladies give in making this service possible. The voluntary workers delivering the meals make friendly contact with the recipient and can, if it would be welcomed, arrange for a visitor to call at other times to overcome the loneliness which is the cause of much unhappiness amongst old people living on their own.

Bathing Pool

The swimming pool is situated in Puddingmoor, by the River Waveney near the centre of the town, measures 100 ft. x 50 ft. and is 3 ft. deep at the shallow end. There is a 12 ft. diving pit at the deep end. It is constructed of re-inforced concrete, finished in blue enamel, with a perimeter scum channel. There is concrete decking, with turf and flower beds surrounding. There are footbaths at the entrance to the pool, and spectators are separated from the surround by a guard rail. Electricity and mains water supply are available. Main sewerage has not yet been provided, but it is hoped this will be completed by 1964 and that flush toilet accommodation will be installed.

The pool is filled at the beginning of the season by mains water supply. Treatment is by filtration, aeration cascade and breakpoint chlorination, with chemical dosage of soda and alumina to control pH. The water is changed every seven hours at a rate of 524 gallons per minute. "Topping up" is from the mains water supply.

Periodic water samples were taken from the bathing pool during the season, for analysis. Every bacteriological specimen showed no coliform bacilli in 100 ml. which is most satisfactory.



The following is a typical chemical analysis :-

"pH	8.1
Free residual chlorine	4.0 parts per million
Combined residual chlorine	1.0 " " "
Total residual chlorine	5.0 " " "

These results are satisfactory"

#### Water Supply

The water undertaking is now administered by the East Anglian Water Company and I am indebted to them for the following information :

The water supply of the Borough has been satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year 1963. It was necessary to cart water to certain properties during January and February due to frozen service pipes. The whole of the supply for Beccles comes from the Barsham Bore which has a fluoride content of 0.2 parts per million.

The water supply shows the characteristic hardness of East Anglian supplies and will not take up lead in sufficient amounts to be injurious to health. No contamination of the water supply or the source of supply occurred during 1963.

#### Typical Chemical Analysis

LINCOLNE SUTTON & WOOD LTD.

Clarence House,  
6 Clarence Road,  
NORWICH.

19th July, 1963.

#### Raw

Appearance	clear, with yellow deposit
Deposit	iron compounds
Colour	faint yellow
Taste	satisfactory
Odour	nil
pH	7.3

#### Parts per million

Chloride as chlorine	54
Total Hardness	325
Temporary Hardness	235
Permanent Hardness	90
Free Carbon Dioxide	38
Iron	3.6

#### Nitrogen

Ammoniacal	0.06
Albuminoid	0.04
Nitrate	1.0
Nitrite	0.04
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate	0.30
Total Dissolved Solids at 180° C.	500

The organic quality of this water is good and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The total hardness of the water is about 23° Clark, of which rather more than 16° is temporary. The reaction of the water is on the alkaline side of neutrality, the free carbonic acid content being "balanced" by the temporary hardness.

The main defect of this water is the presence of a rather heavy trace of iron, which gives rise to a rusty deposit on standing. Provided that the iron is removed by appropriate treatment, we consider that this water should then be suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton & Wood Ltd.  
(Signed) Eric C. Wood.

#### Typical Bacteriological Analysis

LINCOLNE SUTTON & WOOD LTD.

Clarence House,  
6 Clarence Road,  
NORWICH.

29th August, 1963.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Colonies per ml. on agar at 37°C.</u>		<u>Probable Number per 100 ml.</u>
	<u>24 hours</u>	<u>48 hours</u>	<u>Presumptive E. Coli Type I Coliforms</u>
Kemps Lane	Nil	Nil	Nil
Trevitts, Clarke's Lane, Barsham	Nil	Nil	Nil

Both these results are very satisfactory

for Lincolne Sutton & Wood Ltd.  
(Signed) Eric C. Wood.

2735 dwelling houses are supplied direct from the public water mains and 7 by means of standpipes. There are still six properties in the Borough which have a well-water supply.

#### Sewerage

The sewerage system is reasonably adequate except for certain trunk sewers of decayed brick construction which are surcharged in time of storm. The Council have a remedial scheme of reconstruction, as relief sewers, in preparation.

Two districts (Puddingmoor and Darby Road) where main sewerage did not exist are now sewered. The two small extensions providing main drainage at South Road and Kemps Lane are also complete. There are now only six dwellings at scattered outlying sites, not connected to mains sewerage system.

The new sewage disposal works is most urgently needed to serve the entire Borough. The existing works being extremely old, primitive and hopelessly inadequate to treat present flows received. Site preparation for the new works to be constructed at a cost exceeding £150,000 has not yet commenced. Works construction should commence on or before 1st October, 1964.



The average number of persons per house is 2.7.

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47

National Assistance Amendment Act 1951

No action was taken under either Act during the year.

H.E. NUTTEN

Medical Officer of Health

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
BLYBURGATE,  
BECCLES,  
SUFFOLK.

June, 1964.

Tel. Beccles 3113



GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) .. .. .	2,017
Registrar-General's estimate of population (mid-1963)..	7,440
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .	2,748
Rateable Value (at 31.12.63) .. .. .	£240,725
Product of Penny Rate (to December, 1963).. .. . (estimated)	£950

	Beccles M.B.	England & Wales
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
Number .....	104	--
Rate per 1,000 population .....	14.0	18.2
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
Per cent of total live births .....	3.8	--
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>		
Number .....	3	--
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .....	28.0	17.3
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u> .....	107	--
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (deaths under 1 year) .....	2	--
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>		
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births .	19.2	20.9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	20.0	⌘
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	NIL	⌘
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) .....	19.2	⌘
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) .....	9.6	⌘
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) .....	37.3	⌘
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u> (including abortion)		
Number of deaths .....	NIL	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .....	--	⌘

-- not applicable  
⌘ not yet available

# VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	TOTAL
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Total .....	56	48	104
Legitimate .....	55	45	100
Illegitimate .....	1	3	4
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Total .....	--	3	3
Legitimate .....	--	3	3
Illegitimate .....	--	--	--
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>			
Total .....	--	2	2
Legitimate .....	--	2	2
Illegitimate .....	--	--	--
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE</u>			
Total .....	--	2	2
Legitimate .....	--	2	2
Illegitimate .....	--	--	--
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE</u>			
Total .....	--	1	1
Legitimate .....	--	1	1
Illegitimate .....	--	--	--
DEATHS - ALL AGES	60	65	125

<u>RATES</u>	Beccles M.B.	England & Wales
Adjusted Birth Rate .....	15.1	--
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population .....	16.8	12.2
Adjusted Death Rate .....	14.8	--

Comparability Factor (Births) 1.08  
Comparability Factor (Deaths) 0.88

## Causes of Infant Deaths

F. 3 days. Sclerema Neonatorum. Prematurity.

F. 1 week. Congenital Abnormality.



CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease .....	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria .....	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough .....	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections .....	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis .....	-	-	-
8. Measles .....	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	1	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	2	2	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	2	-	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm .....	4	2	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	-	1	1
16. Diabetes .....	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	8	16	24
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	16	11	27
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	1	1	2
20. Other heart disease .....	11	9	20
21. Other circulatory diseases .....	2	5	7
22. Influenza .....	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia .....	5	4	9
24. Bronchitis .....	1	-	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	-	2	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .....	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations .....	-	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	2	6	8
33. Motor Vehicle accidents .....	1	-	1
34. All other accidents .....	1	-	1
35. Suicide .....	1	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war .....	-	-	-
TOTAL	60	65	125

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life During 1963

	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years								TOTAL	
			1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-		75 and over
MALES	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	10	15	31	60
FEMALES	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	4	4	21	31	65
											TOTAL	125



# DEATHS FROM CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS DURING THE YEARS 1952-1963

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION
1952	--	--	--	--
1953	1	2	3	0.43
1954	1	1	2	0.28
1955	1	1	2	0.28
1956	1	--	1	0.13
1957	2	1	3	0.43
1958	--	--	--	--
1959	4	--	4	0.57
1960	2	1	3	0.43
1961	3	--	3	0.40
1962	5	--	5	0.68
1963	2	--	2	0.27
TOTAL	22	6	28	

## ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATE : COMPARABILITY FACTOR

Local birth rates are expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar-General and comprise persons of all ages, including those who have no influence on the birth rate. These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a high proportion of them in a population tends to lower, and a small proportion tends to raise the true rate. The size of this proportion will vary in different areas and, therefore, the elimination or standardization of such a factor will give a truer comparison between areas.

The Registrar-General issues a comparability factor on these lines. Multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by the comparability factor gives the adjusted birth rate and can be compared with the crude rate for England and Wales.

The comparability factor for deaths is obtained in a similar way to the above. The factors for certain areas, where rapid increase or reduction in the population affects its comparison by sex and age groups are also adjusted on that account. Death rate area comparability factors are adjusted to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. Birth rate area comparability factors are also adjusted to take account of the presence of sterile populations in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

## TABLE SHOWING THE MORE IMPORTANT CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES

CAUSE OF DEATH	NO. OF DEATHS		PERCENTAGE	
	1962	1963	1962	1963
Diseases of circulatory system	53	56	50.96	44.80
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	24	14.42	19.20
Malignant diseases	16	16	15.38	12.80
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	5	10	4.80	8.00
Influenza	--	--	--	--
All other causes	15	19	14.42	15.20
TOTAL	104	125	99.98	100.00

In 1963, 76% of all deaths fell under the first three headings. The comparable figure for 1962 was 80% and for 1961 was 77%.

# COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Y E A R														
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Population	6,862	6,829	6,903	6,965	7,050	7,130	7,060	7,000	6,980	6,960	7,040	7,330	7,400	7,440
No. of houses inhabited	2,362	2,400	2,427	2,520	2,550	2,580	2,590	2,603	2,606	2,641	2,637	2,690	2,739	2,748
No. of live births	79	78	99	99	95	75	87	96	100	99	88	115	113	104
Birth Rate (Crude)	11.6	11.4	14.3	14.2	13.5	10.5	12.3	13.7	14.3	14.2	12.5	15.6	15.3	14.0
No. of Still Births	4	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	1	3	3
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality rate	25.3	12.8	30.3	0	10.5	26.7	34.5	20.8	0	30.3	22.7	17.4	17.7	19.2
(No. of Deaths)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(0)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
No. of Deaths (all ages)	88	108	92	82	103	107	112	81	95	97	81	97	104	125
Death Rate (Crude)	12.9	15.8	13.4	11.7	14.6	15.0	15.8	11.6	13.6	13.9	11.5	13.2	14.0	16.8



NUMBER OF ALL CONFIRMED CASES OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1963 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX

AGE	INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS			PNEUMONIA ACUTE			PUERPERAL PYREXIA			SCARLET FEVER			MEASLES			SALMONELLA INFECTION			SONNE DYSENTERY		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	1
2 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
4 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	9	-	1	1	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
25 - 44	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	2	3
45 - 64	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 or over	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	2	5	2	-	2	-	1	1	-	1	1	7	14	21	1	2	3	4	2	6

TOTAL = 39

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO MONTH OF OCCURENCE

	INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS	ACUTE PNEUMONIA	PUERPERAL PYREXIA	MEASLES	SALMONELLA INFECTION	SONNE DYSENTERY	SCARLET FEVER
January	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
February	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
March	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
April	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
May	-	-	-	17	-	-	-
June	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
July	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-	3	6	-
September	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
November	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	2	1	21	3	6	1

TOTAL 39



# TUBERCULOSIS

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1962	24	3	7	4	38
No. of cases added during the year	2	-	1	-	3
No. of cases removed during the year	3	-	2	-	5
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1963	23	3	6	4	36

CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER		CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER	
New notifications	1	Recovered	2
Inward transfers	2	Died	-
		Removed to other areas	3
TOTAL	3	TOTAL	5

## PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

### PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	50	54	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	1	1	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	51	-	-	-

## 2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) a. Insufficient b. Unsuitable or defective c. Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

### Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

There was one outworker on the August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2) engaged on the making, etc. of wearing apparel.

There were no cases of default in sending lists to the Council, and no instances of work in unwholesome premises.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1963

To :-

His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Beccles Borough Council.

I present my fifteenth Annual Report since my appointment in May, 1949 as the Council's Public Health Inspector.

Public Health Act 1936

Provision of Drainage and Sewerage

The provision of sewerage to premises in Puddingmoor proceeded during the year.

A sewer was also made available to premises in part of South Road, and provided the possibility of housing development in the area.

The progressive extension of the sewers by the Council in recent years means that there will remain in the Borough only some six premises which have not main sewerage available to them. In all cases they are isolated properties, and the cost of sewerage would be very high for a limited improvement.

Sewage Disposal

The disposal of sewage from the town has been a source of concern to the Council and its officials for many years, and the view that the present sewage disposal system is outmoded and inadequate is generally accepted. The preparatory work for a completely new sewage disposal works for the Borough is in hand.

Refuse Collection

Refuse collection and disposal is carried out under the supervision of Mr. S.C. Bromley, a weekly collection being maintained.

Disposal is by controlled tipping on the Council's Marsh Estate.

Water Supply

The East Anglian Water Company assumed responsibility for the supply of water to the Borough and surrounding area in April, 1962, in accordance with the Government's policy of amalgamating water undertakings into larger units.

The supply of the Borough was adequate to meet all demands, and completely satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically.

The closest liaison was maintained with officials of the Water Company, and it would be appropriate to place on record appreciation of their co-operation.

There has been great progress in recent years in extending mains

supplied in the Borough, and as a result there are only six properties still reliant on wells.

They are all in isolated positions well removed from the nearest mains. The Council can only require an owner to expend a maximum of £60 on the provision of a piped supply of water, under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1961. None of these properties could be supplied for that sum.

### Smoke Abatement

The pollution of the atmosphere by smoke is not a major Public Health problem, the Borough being fortunate in having industries which are not excessively smoke producing.

Occasional nuisance has been noted from certain factory chimneys, and on investigation have often been found to be due to bad stoking techniques.

It is without doubt true in Beccles as elsewhere that over half of atmospheric pollution is caused by the domestic open fire, and improved fireplace design and the increasing use of other fuels is progressively improving the position.

### Bathing Pool

The report of the Medical Officer of Health gives details of the Council's Bathing Pool in Puddingmoor, which was opened in 1959.

The water in it was kept under constant observation both chemically and bacteriologically, and it was always found to be of the only acceptable standard for such Pools - fit for drinking purposes.

### Housing Act 1957

The year saw a change of policy on the part of the Council in respect of Council house building. After a lull of several years it was re-started and 14 houses were completed. The erection of several bungalows and four blocks of flats - a new departure for the Council, was started.

The Council at the end of 1963 owned 684 dwellings.

Private building too is making its contribution to the raising of housing standards in the Borough, no less than 32 new homes having been built during the year by private enterprise.

It is interesting to note from the report of the Medical Officer of Health that since the population of the Borough is 7,440 and the number of occupied dwellings 2,748, the average number of persons in each house is only 2.7.

This indicates that a very welcome characteristic of present times is that there are far fewer people per house than was the case not many years ago.

It also underlines the wisdom of the Council's decision to concentrate their building efforts on small flats and bungalows rather than three or four bedroomed houses, for there can be little doubt that many of the latter are under-occupied.



## Demolition of Unfit Houses

During the year, two houses owned by the Council which had been represented as unfit, were demolished, and the site used for building a block of flats.

A Demolition Order was made in respect of a further house, the tenant re-housed and the premises demolished.

A further two homes were represented as being unfit, negotiations are in progress with a view to the Council purchasing them to provide the nucleus of a much needed Car Park.

The following is a summary of progress made by the Council in the post-war years in the abolition of sub-standard property in the Borough:-

Premises demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under the Housing Acts	-	60
Premises re-conditioned as an alternative to demolition	-	5
Premises the subject of Demolition Orders, vacated but not yet demolished	-	17
Condemned property still occupied	-	7
Closing Orders on parts of buildings	-	4
		<u>93</u>

## Housing Repairs

Notices were served on the owners of 38 houses in the Borough requiring repairs to houses.

## Improvement Grants

'Standard' Grants were made in respect of 13 houses during the year, and 'Discretionary' Grants in 17 cases.

## Food Hygiene Regulations 1958

Inspections were made of almost all food handling premises during the year, and generally speaking, food was handled in a seemly way.

The co-operation of the owners of such establishments was unhesitating, and they readily gave attention to minor infringements of the Regulations when their attention was drawn to them.

## Milk Supply and Dairies

There are three dairies in the Borough.

Two are large pasteurising plants with modern equipment and methods. They were regularly visited and sampling undertaken in co-operation with

the County Health Officer, Mr. R.E. Law.

The third dairy is a producer of tuberculin tested milk and therefore comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

### Slaughterhouses

There are three slaughterhouses in the Borough.

Two are relatively small establishments supplying domestic customers in Beccles and its immediate surrounds.

The third is a large Abattoir, built in 1958, which sends its products not only throughout this country, but also the Continent.

The premises are all in a satisfactory structural condition, complying with the Slaughterhouse Regulations 1958, and the co-operation accorded to the Council's officials is very much appreciated.

### Meat Inspection

Meat inspection is without doubt the heaviest Public Health duty placed on the Council. The amount of work has, almost without exception, increased every year in recent times. There was for example an increase in 1963 of 6,248 animals inspected compared with the previous year.

The year saw the introduction of the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, which gave effect to the Government's long standing determination that all meat should be inspected and stamped before leaving the slaughterhouse. What had previously been accepted by the Council as a moral obligation, has now become a statutory requirement.

The Regulations have been almost universally welcomed, except in one respect - the controversial requirement that the owners of meat should pay the Local Authority for the services of their Inspectors. In my opinion, meat inspection is not a service to the butcher, but a Public Health work intended to protect the meat consuming public, and it is greatly to be regretted that the demonstrable independence of the Public Health Inspector has been lessened, however imperceptibly.

It will be adduced from the figures of inspections carried out that this work requires almost the full-time attention of a Meat Inspector. The Council therefore employ Captain J.C. Taylor and Partners, as part-time Inspectors on alternate weeks.

The Council will appreciate therefore that they now have little more than a half-time Public Health Inspector for all duties other than meat inspection.

The following are the statistical details of this work during 1963, in the form required by the Ministry of Health :-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. killed	11,604	361	1,876	10,386	24,227
No. inspected	11,604	361	1,876	10,386	24,227



All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerici

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Whole carcasses condemned	87	19	23	77
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2924	9	87	549
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerici	26%	8%	5%	6%

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	7	-	-	3
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	63	-	-	114
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.6%	-	-	1%

Cysticerocis

Carcasses submitted for treatment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	2	-	-	-

Without any doubt, the most striking feature of meat inspection in recent years has been the virtual disappearance of Tuberculosis from routine inspection in the slaughterhouse. It still figures in the foregoing details of condemnations, but this is almost entirely due to the fact that the Beccles Abattoir has been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the reception of animals which have reacted positively to ante-mortem testing over a very wide area of East Anglia. In not one instance was Tuberculosis found in a bovine other than those slaughtered because testing had indicated the probability of a Tubercular infection.

Other Foods

Some 275 items of foodstuffs were voluntarily submitted to the Public Health Department for inspection, and when appropriate, were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Disposal of Condemned Food

Inedible materials from slaughterhouses including condemned meat, were rendered sterile at the By-Products Plant at Common Lane, the resultant materials being used for animal feeding or fertilisers or industrial purposes.

Condemned organs, unsaleable but suitable for pharmaceutical purposes, were kept under lock and key in a large refrigerator pending collection.

Other unsound food was rendered unpalatable, burned and buried on the Council's refuse tip.

### Rodent Control

Our full time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council, and he was able to deal expeditiously with all complaints received.

The sewers of the Borough were treated twice in the effort to control the rat population, with satisfactory results.

### Factories Act 1957

There are 50 factories in the Borough with mechanical power, and 1 non-power factory.

No notices were served during the year requiring compliance with matters for which the Council is responsible.

June, 1964.

E.H. CRAMMER  
Public Health Inspector





